

BPL is a bad idea. It pollutes the HF spectrum and currently cannot be prevented from doing so.

Trusting the power industry to prevent the interference caused by this technology is like trusting the fox to guard the hen house. This is the same industry responsible for the miserable shape of the national electrical power grid, their core business. If the power industry can't competently deliver power, what hope is there that they can deliver broadband services profitably and without polluting the high-frequency radio spectrum?

As a nation, we have everything to lose and nothing to gain by allowing this travesty to go forward. Total disruption of shortwave broadcasts (made even more important by the monopolization of the commercial broadcast space in this country) and government HF communications, along with the probable degradation or even destruction of the amateur radio service are certainly not worth even the claimed utopian benefits put forth by the power industry. These claimed benefits are obviously fictitious to even the least informed observer. If the telecoms and cable companies are struggling and dropping broadband prices now, how does the power industry expect to be profitable at the prices they are quoting several years from now when they complete implementation? How can they claim to be able to provide affordable service to rural customers and keep a straight face? How can they claim BPL causes no interference in light of glaring evidence to the contrary? And, more importantly, how can the Commission believe them?

These are dangerous times. This country needs to preserve its emergency communications infrastructure and resources. Government HF communications are a critical resource. Another important emergency resource is the amateur radio service. Ham radio operators are everywhere and they don't cost the taxpayers anything, yet they're ready and willing to step in and donate their time, their equipment, and their talents whenever they are called. All they ask in return is responsible spectrum management. Yet, increasingly they are faced with well-financed, under-researched attacks by any company with a hair-brained plan to make a quick buck.

None of these resources will remain unaffected by any kind of BPL rollout.

In matters of public policy dealing with important technologies, government entities can

almost universally be counted on to do the wrong thing. This has been seen time and time again over the past several years. Looking out for the public interest has been replaced by toadying up to big moneyed special interests in virtually every aspect of our government. I would hope that the FCC would buck this trend. I respectfully urge the commission to reject any form of BPL rollout until it has been demonstrated that it can be prevented from polluting the spectrum.